

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7344

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 0164

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NL

SUBJ: CURRENT PROBLEMS FACING GON CABINET

1. MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER VAN AGT TOLD ME LAST NIGHT IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION AS TO THE ACCURACY OF RUMORS PREDICTING POTENTIAL GOVERNMENTAL CRISIS JAN 16 (CABINET MEETS THAT DAY) THAT THIS POSSIBILITY DID EXIST. NOT ONE BUT THREE THORNY ISSUES ARE INVOLVED HE SAID: THE EXTENT OF PARTICIPATION IN COMPANY MANAGEMENT BY WORKERS COUNCILS; A CABINET DECISION TO BUILD 3 NUCLEAR PLANTS BY 1985; AND WHETHER OR NOT TO BUILD A BRIDGE/TUNNEL ACROSS THE SCHELDE.

2. ELABORATING ON THE THIRD ISSUE HE SAID THAT TRANSPORT MINISTER WESTERTERP WAS ADAMANT THAT THIS NEW PROJECT MUST PROCEED WHEREAS FINANCE MINISTER DUISENBERG WAS TOTALLY OPPOSED BECAUSE FINANCIAL RESOURCES WERE NOT AVAILABLE. EACH HAD THREATENED TO LEAVE THE CABINET IF HIS POSITION WAS NOT SUPPORTED.

3. COMMENT: THE LIKELIHOOD IS THAT PM DEN UYL WILL ONCE AGAIN, AS HE HAS SO OFTEN IN THE PAST, FIND THE NECESSARY COMPROMISE SOLUTIONS TO KEEP HIS COALITION TOGETHER, FOR THE LISTED DIFFICULTIES APPEAR OF NO GREATER SIGNIFICANCE THAN THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN SURMOUNTED IN THE PAST, AND WE SENSE NO DESIRE BY ANY OF THE COALITION PARTIES TO GO TO THE POLLS DURING THIS PERIOD OF ECONOMIC RECESSION.

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